

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the pending Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 13 in order to overcome the § 112 rejections. Support for the amendments to claims 3 and 13 may be found, for example, on pages 11-12 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter recited in claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-12, 14, 15 and 18 of the present invention.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art references.

II. The Rejection Of Claims 3 And 13 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner alleges that the phrase “wherein the rotor hub and the rotor-side bearing member *are made of a same material* and formed integrally” lacks support in the specification. As such, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 13 to recite “wherein the rotor hub and the rotor-side bearing member *are made of a single material* and formed integrally”.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to the passages on page 11, line 27-page 12, line 4 of the specification which states “here, rotor hub 2 and rotor-side bearing member 3 need not be made as separate component *but they can be fabricated into a **single** component*”. Thus, if they can be fabricated into a single component, they may be made of a single material. Furthermore, on page 23, lines 15-18, the specification recites “support column 71 and stator-side bearing member 76 may be formed unitary with a single material instead of using separate

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materials". Thus, the specification does support the claim limitation that the rotor hub and the rotor-side bearing member are made of a same material. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the § 112 rejection of claims 3 and 13 be withdrawn.

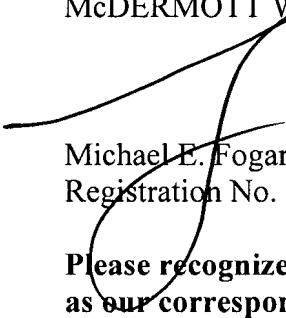
III. Conclusion

Having responded to all open issues set forth in the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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